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Amendments to the claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of~~ for increasing or maintaining the blood supply in the penis of a subject which method comprises introducing a ~~gene~~ nucleic acid comprising a gene encoding a vascular endothelial growth factor into a suitable cell in the subjects' penis under conditions ~~such permitting that the nucleic acid expresses~~ expression of vascular endothelial growth factor in the cell so as to thereby increase or maintain the blood supply in the subject's penis.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim & 9, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a vector.
11. (Original) A method of increasing or maintaining the blood supply in the genital area of a female subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of vascular endothelial growth factor effective to increase or maintain the blood supply in the subject's genital area.